

**REMARKS**

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-20 are pending.

**I. Amendment to the Specification**

The specification has been amended to claim benefit to the parent application 09/018,283, filed February 4, 1998, now allowed and soon to issue.

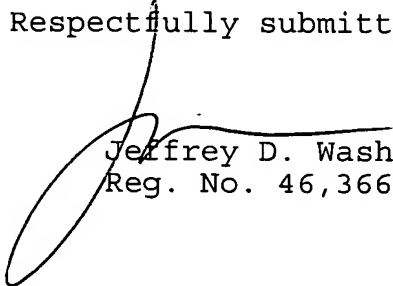
**II. Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 12 have been amended to more particularly point out what the applicants consider to be their invention. The amendments do not claim any new matter not supported by the specification.

**III. Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of all claims. Please feel free to call collect with any questions regarding this submission or any matters relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Washville  
Reg. No. 46,366

Date: March 16, 2004

15 Rye Street, Suite 312  
Pease International Tradeport  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
Tel.: (603) 427-0070  
FAX: (603) 427-5530

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper along with any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service to the Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450- VIA Express mail EV 386514153US This 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004.



Jeffrey D. Washville